

12 encoded at half-rate or greater, at least a portion of the subframes have a zero or  
13 low-level input, and each of the subframes having the zero or low-level input  
14 results in a randomized selection of a codebook excitation vector.

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5. (Twice Amended) In a computer system having a processor coupled to a bus,  
a computer readable memory unit coupled to said bus and having stored therein  
a computer program that when executed by said processor causes said  
computer system to implement a method of reducing sinusoidal artifact  
generation in a vocoder, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a determined input energy threshold value below which a  
suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is expected to be generated  
by said vocoder; and

b) provided an input signal is received having an energy value lower than  
said input energy threshold value, using a selection process such that said  
suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is not continuously  
generated;

wherein the input signal comprises a plurality of subframes, the subframes  
encoded at half-rate or greater, at least a portion of the subframes have a zero or  
low-level input, and each of the subframes having the zero or low-level input  
results in a randomized selection of a codebook excitation vector.

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9. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:  
a processor;

3 an address/data bus coupled to said processor;  
4 a computer readable memory coupled to communicate with said  
5 processor, said processor for performing the vocoder sinusoidal artifact  
6 generation reduction steps of:  
7 a) receiving a determined input energy threshold value below which a  
8 suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is expected to be generated  
9 by said vocoder; and  
10 b) provided an input signal is received having an energy value lower than  
11 said input energy threshold value, using a selection process such that said  
12 suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is not continuously  
13 generated;  
14 wherein the input signal comprises a plurality of subframes, the subframes  
15 encoded at half-rate or greater, at least a portion of the subframes have a zero or  
16 low-level input, and each of the subframes having the zero or low-level input  
17 results in a randomized selection of a codebook excitation vector.

1 13. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing sinusoidal artifact generation in a  
2 vocoder, said method comprising the steps of:  
3 a) determining an input energy threshold value below which a suspected  
4 noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is expected to be generated by said  
5 vocoder; and  
6 b) provided an input signal is received having an energy value lower than  
7 said input energy threshold value, using a selection process such that said